

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 SNM-02 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PRS-01 L-02

DEAE-00 JUSE-00 AID-10 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 DRC-01 OIC-01 SCI-03 /059 W

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R 261739Z FEB 74

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4286

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FROM USDEL, CND

PASS WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM FOR TOM PETERS AND
COLONEL WALKER

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, UN

SUBJECT: CND: ITEM 9 - WORLD OPIUM SUPPLY

REF: 1271

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF USDEL STATEMENT ON THIS SUBJECT:
BEGIN TEXT.

1. MR. CHAIRMAN: THE UNITED STATES WELCOMES THE OPPORTU-
NITY TO ADDRESS THIS AGENDA ITEM WHICH IS BEFORE US AS
THE RESULT OF THE SUGGESTION AT OUR LAST MEETING OF THE
OBSERVER FROM BELGIUM AND THE REPRESENTATIVE OF INDIA.
WE WISH TO COMPLIMENT THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL
BOARD ON ITS PERCEPTIVE EXPOSITION REGARDING WORLD
SUPPLIES AND REQUIREMENTS OF OPIATES FOR MEDICAL AND
SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES.

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2. IN ITS REPORT THE BOARD ASSESSES THAT WHEREAS THE

1973 OPIUM PRODUCTION SCHEDULE WILL NOT IN ITSELF SUFFICE TO MEET THE DEMAND FOR MEDICAL USE, THE 1974 SCHEDULE MIGHT LEAD TO EQUILIBRIUM, ALTHOUGH IN VIEW OF THE CONTINUED INCREASE IN MEDICINAL REQUIREMENTS RESULTING FROM THE EXTENSION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES, IT WOULD BE WISE TO EXAMINE THE FUTURE PLANNING OF NORMAL RESOURCES OF RAW MATERIALS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE NOT ONLY FOR MEETING CURRENT REQUIREMENTS BUT ALSO FOR THE NECESSITY OF REBUILDING STOCKS TO SAFE LEVELS.

3. THE UNITED STATES' ANALYSIS OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND SUPPORTS THE BOARD'S CONCLUSIONS. OUR OWN MANUFACTURERS HAVE HAD DIFFICULTY OBTAINING SUPPLIES OF OPIUM. WE, THEREFORE, WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE IN A REASONED DIALOGUE CONCERNING THE MOST PRODUCTIVE AND CONTROLLED MEANS OF MEETING FUTURE REQUIREMENTS OF THE NATURAL OPIATES, ESPECIALLY CODEINE, FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES.

4. THE VIEWS I AM ABOUT TO EXPRESS HAVE BEEN THE SUBJECT OF CONSULTATION WITH MANY MEMBERS OF THIS COMMISSION. WE HAVE PROFITED FROM THESE CONSULTATIONS AND HAVE ADJUSTED OUR VIEWS IN CERTAIN RESPECTS AS THE RESULT OF OBTAINING THE OPINIONS OF OTHERS.

5. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY TO ASSURE ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF OPIATES FOR MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES UNTIL SUITABLE NON-ADDICTIVE OR LESS ADDICTIVE SYNTHETIC SUBSTITUTES CAN BE DEVELOPED AND ADOPTED BY THE MEDICAL COMMUNITY. AVAILABLE INFORMATION IN THE U.S. SUGGESTS THAT SUITABLE SYNTHETICS TO REPLACE CODEINE WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, PERHAPS NOT FOR AT LEAST A DECADE.

6. THE UNITED STATES AFFIRMS ONCE AGAIN OUR BASIC, INDEED OUR VITAL INTEREST IN THE PREVENTION OF DIVERSION FROM LICIT SUPPLIES AND IN THE ELIMINATION OF ALL ILLICIT PRODUCTION. ALL OF US HAVE WORKED ACTIVELY OVER THE PAST YEARS TO ELIMINATE DIVERSION. OUR PROGRESS HAS BEEN SUBSTANTIAL. BUT, WE HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO. WE MUST NOT, WE CANNOT PERMIT OURSELVES TO SLIP ON THE PATH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AHEAD. I BELIEVE WE ALL AGREE THAT INCREASING WORLD-WIDE REQUIREMENTS FOR OPIATES OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS MUST BE MET UNDER CONDITIONS WHICH WILL ASSURE MAXIMUM CONTROLS. THE TOTAL REQUIREMENTS SHOULD OF COURSE BE DETERMINED BY THE BOARD ON THE BASIS OF GOVERNMENTS' ESTIMATES OF AMOUNTS NEEDED FOR CONSUMPTION AND FOR REBUILDING OF STOCKS.

7. THE UNITED STATES HOPES THAT HASTY ACTION WITH ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES FOR OUR UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTED CONTROL GOALS WILL NOT BE TAKEN BY ANY COUNTRY. IN OUR OWN CASE, IN THE FACE OF REDUCED STOCKPILES, WE WILL HELP MEET THE SHORT-TERM REQUIREMENTS FOR MEDICAL USE BY RELEASING AS NECESSARY AMOUNTS FROM UP TO 45 PERCENT OF OUR STRATEGIC OPIUM STOCKPILE TO RESTORE AND MAINTAIN UNITED STATES' INVENTORIES AT A SAFE LEVEL. IT IS NOT OUR INTENTION TO USE THESE EMERGENCY STOCKS EITHER TO EXPORT OPIUM OR TO REPLACE NORMAL OPIUM IMPORTS. THEY WILL BE USED EXCLUSIVELY TO REBUILD U.S. MANUFACTURERS' INVENTORIES. THE U.S. INTENDS TO CONTINUE TO MEET ITS DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION REQUIREMENTS THROUGH IMPORTS.

8. THE UNITED STATES WISHES TO EXPRESS ITS APPRECIATION

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TO INDIA FOR PROVIDING OPIUM GUM UNDER A CONTROL SYSTEM WHICH HAS, AS FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE, NOT PERMITTED ANY SUBSTANTIAL LEAKAGE INTO THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET. WE SHARE INDIA'S CONCERN OVER THE RISKS OF PRECIPITOUSLY INCREASING ACREAGE FOR OPIUM AND SUPPORT INDIA'S DESIRE TO FULLY EXPLOIT EXISTING ACREAGE, AND TO OBTAIN THE MAXIMUM EXTRACTION OF MORPHINE FROM AVAILABLE ACREAGE.

9. IN LOOKING TO THE FUTURE, THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES WE SHOULD MAKE THE MAXIMUM EFFORT TO KEEP OPIUM PRODUC-

TION UNDER EFFECTIVE CONTROL UNTIL SUCH TIME AS ACCEPTABLE SYNTHETIC SUBSTITUTES FOR CODEINE BECOME AVAILABLE. IN THE LIGHT OF INFORMATION NOW AVAILABLE TO US, THE U.S. BELIEVES THAT CODEINE MAY BE MORE EFFICIENTLY PRODUCED THROUGH PROCESSING OF UNINCISED POPPY STRAW WHICH, OUR EXPERTS BELIEVE, WILL POTENTIALLY YIELD MORE RAW MATERIAL PER HECTARE. STRAW PROCESSING MAY ALSO OFFER THE SAFEST WAY TO MEET INCREASING MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS. HOWEVER, WE RECOGNIZE THAT FURTHER RESEARCH NEEDS TO BE PURSUED ON THE STRAW PROCESS. THERE IS A NEED TO EXAMINE BOTH MECHANICAL AND LABOR-INTENSIVE PROCEDURES. THERE IS A NEED TO EXAMINE THE MEANS OF CONTROLLING PRODUCTION THROUGH THESE PROCESSES.

10. WE PROPOSE THAT THIS RESEARCH ON THE STRAW PROCESS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BE PURSUED BY INTERESTED COUNTRIES, THAT IT BE COORDINATED INTERNATIONALLY BY THE UN NARCOTICS LABORATORY, AND THAT THE RESULTS OF THE RESEARCH BE SHARED INTERNATIONALLY. THE UNITED STATES PLANS TO UNDERTAKE SUCH RESEARCH. WE WOULD WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN AND CONTRIBUTE TO A PROGRAM COORDINATED BY THE LABORATORY AND TO SHARE THE RESULTS OF OUR RESEARCH.

11. FURTHERMORE WE PROPOSE THAT INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH ON THE STRAW PROCESS BE CONDUCTED THROUGH PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THE UNITED NATIONAL LABORATORY. WE UNDERSTAND THE LABORATORY WOULD BE PREPARED TO ASSUME THIS RESPONSIBILITY. FOR OUR PART WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONTRIBUTE ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS TO THE UNITED NATIONS FUND TO ENABLE THIS INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH TO GO FORWARD.

12. THE PURPOSE OF THIS RESEARCH WOULD BE TO DEVELOP AND PERFECT PROCESSES FOR THE INCREASE OF THE PRODUCTION OF CODEINE TO THE MAXIMUM PER UNIT OF CULTIVATED AREA. THE RESEARCH WOULD INCLUDE BOTH INCISED AND UNINCISED POPPY STRAW AND THE MEANS OF CONTROLLING THIS PRODUCTION IN THE FIELD AND THE PROCESSING PLANT.

13. WE BELIEVE THIS RESEARCH SHOULD RELATE BOTH TO PAPAVER SOMNIFERUM AND PAPAVER BRACTEATUM. THE UN LABORATORY IS ALREADY COORDINATING RESEARCH EFFORTS ON BRACTEATUM. WE URGE THAT THIS EFFORT IN REGARD TO BRACTEATUM BE PURSUED AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE. WE HOPE THAT BY 1975 RESULTS RELATING TO CULTIVATION METHODS AND PRODUCTION PROCESSES AS WELL AS ABUSE POTENTIAL WILL BE AVAILABLE TO THE WORLD COMMUNITY.

14. WE ALSO WANT TO URGE ONCE AGAIN THAT THE SEARCH FOR

NON-ADDICTIVE OR SUBSTANTIALLY LESS ADDICTIVE SYNTHETICS
BE CONTINUED AND INTENSIFIED. WE HOPE THAT THE WHO AND
THE UN LABORATORY WILL CONTINUE TO PROMOTE COOPERATIVE
EFFORTS TO EXPEDITE AND EVALUATE THIS RESEARCH. FOR
OUR PART, THE UNITED STATES INTENDS TO PURSUE ITS RESEARCH
IN THIS AREA AND TO MAKE THE RESULTS OF THAT RESEARCH
AVAILABLE TO OTHER COUNTRIES.

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15. WE ENDORSE THE VIEW EXPRESSED BY THE INCB THAT THE
QUESTION OF AVAILABILITY OF OPIATES WORLDWIDE FOR MEDICAL
USE SHOULD BE KEPT UNDER CONTINUOUS REVIEW. WE URGE THAT
THE BOARD INCLUDE A CURRENT ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION
IN ITS ANNUAL REPORTS.

16. MR. CHAIRMAN, WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT NECESSARY AT
THIS TIME FOR THIS COMMISSION TO RECOMMEND A RESOLUTION
ON THIS MATTER. WE HOPE THAT THE VIEWS OF THE U.S. WILL
COMMEND THEMSELVES TO THE APPROVAL OF OTHER MEMBERS. THE
REPORT OF THE COMMISSION WILL, OF COURSE, SUMMARIZE THE
STATEMENTS MADE ON THIS SUBJECT BY COMMISSION MEMBERS AND
OBSERVERS AND BY THE TREATY ORGAN. AND WE TRUST THAT
THE UN NARCOTICS LABORATORY WILL PROCEED WITH THE
COORDINATION AND THE CONDUCT OF THE RELATED RESEARCH.
DALE

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